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LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Low income energy assistance program.



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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Can you afford to make your
home warm and weather-tight?
Can you pay your fuel bills?

If you can't, you may be eligible
for Montana's programs for fuel
bill assistance and home
weatherization.



WEATHERIZATION AND FUEL ASSISTANCE

WEATHERIZATION

This program helps improve the heating efficiency of homes and permanently reduces energy consumption across Montana and the nation. Not only does the program help low income people meet their energy needs, but it also allows them to conserve energy. This lessens our dependency on foreign oil and conserves our natural resources.

If you take part in this program, materials to weatherize your home will be purchased in your area whenever possible. This supports your local lumber, glass and insulation companies. The program also helps your community by employing local workers for weatherization.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

This program, known as LIEAP, pays *part* of winter energy bills for eligible people. Payments are usually made directly to local utility companies or vendors. LIEAP is computed to pay for your winter heating costs only. The cost of your cooking, hot water and other utility costs are your on-going responsibility.

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HOW TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

In most communities, Human Resource Development Councils and County Welfare offices handle both of these assistance programs. Your applications for these programs are processed through one or the other of these agencies, depending on your location. You may call the Citizen's Advocate office at 1-800-332-2272 to find your local contact for this assistance.

If you choose to apply for either, an eligibility worker will arrange a time to meet with you to explain the programs and complete your application. For application forms, call, write or visit the office whose address and phone number are on the back of this brochure. You may apply for weatherization at any time during the year. You may apply for LIEAP October through April.

Eligibility for both weatherization and fuel assistance is based on income. Owners and renters alike may apply for these programs.



PROVIDING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

During your interview, the worker will ask for your Social Security number and to see proof of certain information you've provided. It will help if you bring the following documents to your interview:

- a recent copy of your fuel bill (unless you heat with wood or coal)
- income records such as stubs for wages, unemployment compensation or child support, interest income, retirement benefits, alimony payments, social security, self employment, property income

If your household is receiving benefits from General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income or Aid to Families with Dependent Children, you may qualify automatically for these programs.

Any information provided by you or obtained through verification is not open to the public. All records and information about your situation are kept in confidence.

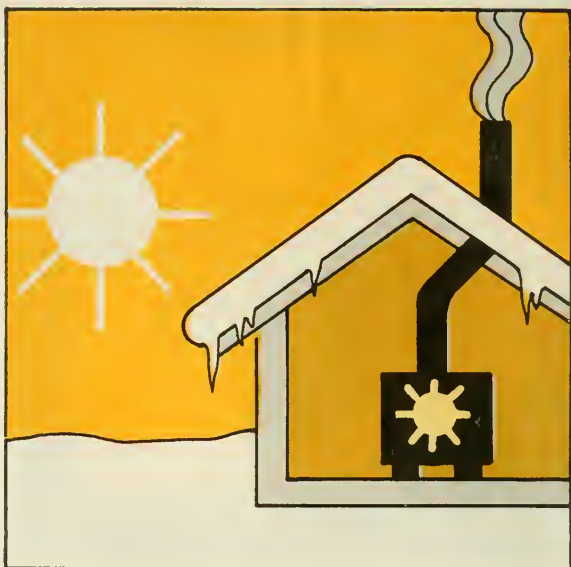


YOUR NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY

After your interview, you will be sent a letter of notification. It will tell you whether or not you are eligible for assistance and what benefits you may expect to receive.

If you believe you haven't received the right amount of assistance, tell the worker right away. You may ask for a hearing if you disagree with any action taken on your case.

These are equal opportunity programs. If you believe you've been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, handicap, political beliefs or religion, write or call the Eligibility Policy Bureau Chief, P.O. Box 4210, Helena, Montana 59604 (444-4540).



RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Weatherization

All approved applications are ranked according to degree of need. Special consideration is given to elderly and handicapped people. If your application is approved but you're not in a priority group *and* if you don't receive assistance within a year of your application date, please reapply. As the program continues, your application will move higher on the list.

When your application is in a priority group, an energy auditor will set up a time with you to assess your home's needs for weatherization materials. The auditor is trained to determine the most cost-effective weatherization measures for your home.

Weatherization measures may include caulking, weatherstripping, insulation, storm windows, vent dampers, night set back for your thermostat, window quilts, trailer skirting, entry airlocks, replacement of broken glass and repair or replacement of primary doors. Weatherization workers may not be able to install all the materials you may need, but they will do the most important weatherization within the dollar limits allowed.

When your home is scheduled for service, a crew will come to install the necessary materials in your home. After the work is completed, you will be asked to sign a statement saying the work was done properly and to your satisfaction.

Fuel Bill Assistance

If you are eligible, the payment amount is figured according to the size and type of your home, kind and cost of fuel. Most often payments are made directly to your utility company or vendor.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
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